

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FDRE-00 IGA-02 ABF-01
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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9327

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 385

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SEDU, BC, US

SUBJECT: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE: AVAILABILITY OF U.S. SUPPORT

REF: A) MASERU 0064 (NOTAL); B. 76 STATE 304432;
C. 76 STATE 308015

1. SUMMARY: IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOB, EMBASSY IN PROCESS OF ASSEMBLING ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON PRESENT AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES. ONE OF MOST USEFUL WAYS WE BELIEVE WE MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE IS IN EDUCATIONAL FIELD, BUT WE LACK SUFFICIENT DATA ON PRECISELY WHAT IS BEING DONE AND CAN BE DONE IN THIS AREA. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST US IN OUR PLANNING EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE ARE IN PROCESS OF ASSEMBLING INFORMATION ON GOB RESOURCES, POLICY AND PLANS DEVOTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE RELIEF OF SOUTH AFRICAN, RHODESIAN AND OTHER REFUGEES. AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR OWN PLANNING PROCESS, WE NEED AN ACCURANTE AND COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF RESOURCES AND ACTIONS USG (OR PRIVATE U.S. SOURCES) MAY BRING TO BEAR ON PROBLEM.

3. AT THIS RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE, DURING WHAT MIGHT

BE CALLED THE BUILD-UP PERIOD OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, THE GOB REMAINS RATHER UNDECIDED CONCERNING ITS REFUGEE STRATEGY. WHILE GOB HAS AND WANTS TO MAINTAIN POLICY OF OFFERING ASYLUM TO REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE MUST PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND SHELTER WHILE THEY REMAIN IN BOTSWANA, IT NONETHELESS DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE CONDITIONS SO ATTRACTIVE THAT IT STIMULATES THE REFUGEE FLOW UNNECESSARILY (E.G., WE ARE RECEIVING MIXED SIGNALS CONCERNING GOB INTENTIONS TO PROVIDE, OR NOT TO PROVIDE, IN-COUNTRY EDUCATION). WHILE GOB IS SORTING OUT ITS PRIORITIES ON THESE MATTERS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FROM GOB OTHER THAN A RATHER NON-SPECIFIC PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING FOOD, SHELTER AND IF POSSIBLE, ONWARD TRAVEL FOR THE REFUGEES. AS GOB POLICIES AND PRIORITIES EMERGE FROM CURRENT DELIBERATIONS, WE WILL FORWARD OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE ABOVE AREAS, DRAWING ON PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF EXISTING AID POSSIBILITIES PREPARED FOR U.S. BY OARAC.

4. THESE NEEDS ARE VERY REAL AND MERIT OUR MOST SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. BUT MEANWHILE THERE IS ONE AREA OF ASSISTANCE ON WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE AGREED AS BEING POTENTIALLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BOTSWANA AND TO THE REFUGEES. THAT LIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENABLE THEM TO STUDY IN U.S. OR OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, THEREFORE, EDUCATION ASSISTANCE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES (PRINCIPALLY FROM SOWETO) IS AN ACCEPTED, NON-CONTROVERSIAL MEANS OF ASSISTING GOB AND ADVANCING U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES. SPECIFICALLY, SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD (1) PROVIDE A SAFETY VALVE FOR THE GOB TO RELIEVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE STEMMING FROM THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN REFUGEES. IN SO DOING, WE WOULD BE MAKING A NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD OUR POLICY OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING THE STABILITY OF PRESIDENT KAHAMA'S DEMOCRATIC NON-RACIAL REGIME, AND STRENGTHENING ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING VOICES OF MODERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: AND (2) WE WOULD BE HELPING TO DEVELOP AND INFLUENCE A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHO ARE SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. WHILE FULLY RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES WHERE DIFFERENT ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS ARE INVOLVED, BELIEVE WE SHOULD REGARD THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY AS ONE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS.

6. TO BE ABLE TO TRANSLATE THIS OPPORTUNITY INTO CON-

CRETE OFFERS, WE NEED INFORMATION ON U.S. SOURCES OF SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. WE HAVE IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE, POSSIBILITIES PRESENTED BY SUCH PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AS PHELPS-STOKES, ROCKEFELLER AND FORD, BY SUCH USG SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS AS AAI (INCLUDING ITS SAREP AND SADPT PROGRAMS) AS WELL AS CU AND OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES. OUR OBJECTIVE AT THIS STAGE IS TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE WAY OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. SOURCES TO ASSIST BOTSWANA IN COPING WITH ITS URGENT REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION ON THE U.S. SOURCES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA AND A STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO DRAW ON THESE RESOURCES.

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